Difficulties faced by CGHS beneficiaries

555. SHRIMANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries especially the senior citizens face acute difficulties in the matter of issue of medicines, and getting direct appointment with specialists even when they are eligible for this under the rules; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in order to mitigate their difficulties and sufferings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Adequate quantity of medicines are available in CGHS dispensaries and there is no shortage. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiaries from the Authorised local chemist on the basis of individual prescriptions. In case of emergency, authority slip is issued to the beneficiaries for immediate procurement directly from the Authorised local chemist without any payment, so that the beneficiaries are not inconvenienced.

The Medical Officers in CGHS dispensaries refer the beneficiaries including pensioners for getting consultation/opinion of the CGHS/ Government specialists at the Nodal centers of the respective CGHS dispensary/policlinic or at any of the Government hospitals. CGHS beneficiaries having a basic pay/basic pension of Rs. 12,000/- or above are allowed to have direct consultation with the Government specialists.

Supply of quality medicines in CGHS dispensaries

556. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medicines supplied in the CGHS dispensaries are of poor quality;

(b) whether it is also a fact that procedures for medicines to be indented in the CGHS dispensaries is time taking; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government to make the medicines available immediately?